

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 21-107V

FANNY RIVERA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 20, 2024

Jeffrey S. Pop, Jeffrey S. Pop & Associates, Beverly Hills, CA, for Petitioner.

Felicia Langel, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION¹

On January 5, 2021, Fanny Rivera filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) after receiving a tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (“Tdap”) vaccination on or about December 15, 2019. Petition at 1; Stipulation, filed at June 18, 2024, ¶¶ 2-4. Petitioner further alleges she sustained the SIRVA within the time period set forth in the Table and that she experienced the residual effects of her alleged injury for more than six months. Stipulation at ¶¶ 4. “Respondent denies that petitioner sustained a SIRVA Table injury; denies that the Tdap vaccine caused petitioner’s alleged shoulder injury, or any other injury or condition; and denies that her current condition is a sequela of a vaccine-related injury.” Stipulation at ¶ 6.

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

Nevertheless, on June 18, 2024, the parties filed the attached joint stipulation, stating that a decision should be entered awarding compensation. I find the stipulation reasonable and adopt it as my decision awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Stipulation, **I award** the following compensation:

- 1) A lump sum of \$50,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** Stipulation at ¶ 8. This amount represents compensation for all items of damages that would be available under Section 15(a). *Id.*; and
- 2) A lump sum of \$1,687.99 in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and the Department of Human Services. *Id.*** This amount represents reimbursement of a Medicaid lien for services rendered to petitioner by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I approve the requested amount for Petitioner's compensation. In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

FANNY RIVERA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 21-107V
Chief Special Master Corcoran
ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Fanny Rivera (“petitioner”), filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34 (“Vaccine Program”). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner’s receipt of the tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (“Tdap”) vaccine, which is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (“Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received the Tdap vaccine on or about December 15, 2019.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that she sustained a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”) within the time period set forth in the Table, or in the alternative, that her alleged injury was caused-in-fact by the Tdap vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of her alleged injury for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner sustained a SIRVA Table injury; denies that the Tdap vaccine caused petitioner's alleged shoulder injury, or any other injury or condition; and denies that her current condition is a sequela of a vaccine-related injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled, and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payments:

- a. A lump sum of \$50,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner; and
- b. A lump sum of \$1,687.99¹ representing reimbursement of a Medicaid lien for services rendered to petitioner by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and Department of Human Services.

Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to the Department of Human Services and mail it to:

Department of Human Services
ATTN: Gregory Martin
Re: CIS #590166516
Bureau of Program Integrity
Commonwealth Towers
303 Walnut Street, 7th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

¹ This amount represents full satisfaction of any right of subrogation, assignment, claim, lien, or cause of action the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania may have against any individual as a result of any Medicaid payments the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has made to or on behalf of petitioner as a result of her alleged injury relating to a vaccine administered on December 15, 2019 under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, *see* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), (h).

These amounts represent compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1) and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and her attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Vaccine Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act), or entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation, and any amount awarded pursuant to paragraph 9, will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i) and subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, and any amount awarded pursuant to paragraph 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns, does forever irrevocably and

unconditionally release, acquit, and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses, and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims under the Vaccine Program on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to, or death of, petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the Tdap vaccine administered on or about December 15, 2019, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about January 5, 2021, and as amended by petitioner on May 20, 2021, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 21-107V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court of Federal Claims on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment, or do any act or thing, other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or

amount of damages, and, further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition, or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.


17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that petitioner sustained a SIRVA Table injury; that the Tdap vaccine caused any other injury or condition; or that her current condition is a sequela of a vaccine-related injury.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

Respectfully submitted,


PETITIONER:


FANNY RIVERA

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:**


JEFFREY S. POP, ESQ.
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**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**


HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch
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P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:**

Jeffrey S. Digitally signed by Jeffrey
S. Beach -S
Date: 2024.05.28 15:29:28
-04'00' for
Beach -S
CDR GEORGE REED GRIMES, MD, MPH
Director, Division of Injury
Compensation Programs
Health Systems Bureau
Health Resources and Services
Administration
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane, 08W-25A
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
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DATE: 6/18/24